

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Withdrawn)** A calcium tartrate composition comprising particles having a mean particle size less than about 30 μm .

2. **(Withdrawn)** The composition according to claim 1, wherein the mean particle size is less than about 25 μm .

3. **(Withdrawn)** The composition according to claim 1, wherein the mean particle size is less than about 20 μm .

4. **(Withdrawn)** The composition according to claim 1, wherein the mean particle size is less than about 18 μm .

5. **(Withdrawn)** The composition according to claim 1, wherein the mean particle size is less than about 15 μm .

6. **(Withdrawn)** The composition of claim 1, wherein less than 5% of particles have a particle size greater than about 40 μm .

7. **(Withdrawn)** The composition of claim 6, wherein less than 1% of particles have a particle size greater than about 40 μm .

8. **(Withdrawn)** The composition of claim 6, wherein less than 0.1% of particles have a particle size greater than about 40 μm .

9. **(Withdrawn)** A method for preparing a calcium tartrate composition comprising particles having a mean particle size less than about 30 μm , comprising the following steps:

submitting maleic acid to an enzymatic catalytic epoxidation thereby obtaining cis-epoxysuccinate,

submitting said cis-epoxysuccinate to the action of an epoxide hydrolase thereby producing L-tartaric acid;

precipitating said L-tartaric acid with CaCl_2 thereby obtaining calcium tartrate crystals; and

recovering the calcium tartrate crystals to obtain a calcium tartrate composition.

10. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 9, wherein said L-tartaric acid is precipitated by adding an equimolar amount of CaCl_2 .

11. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 9 further comprising drying and grinding said recovered calcium tartrate crystals.

12. **(Previously presented)** A plaster composition comprising calcium tartrate particles having a mean particle size less than about 30 μm .

13. **(Previously presented)** A powder comprising calcium tartrate particles having a mean particle size less than about 30 μm , wherein the powder is selected from the group consisting of cement, mortar, and concrete.

14. **(Withdrawn)** A method for preparing a calcium tartrate composition comprising particles having a mean particle size less than about 18 μm , comprising the following steps:

91 submitting maleic acid to an enzymatic catalytic epoxidation thereby obtaining cis-epoxysuccinate,

submitting said cis-epoxysuccinate to the action of an epoxide hydrolase thereby producing L-tartaric acid;

precipitating said L-tartaric acid with CaCl_2 thereby obtaining calcium tartrate crystals; and

recovering the calcium tartrate crystals to obtain a calcium tartrate composition.

15. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 14, wherein said L-tartaric acid is precipitated by adding an equimolar amount of CaCl_2 .

16. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 14 further comprising drying and grinding said recovered calcium tartrate crystals.

17. **(Previously presented)** A plaster composition comprising calcium tartrate particles having a mean particle size less than about 18 μm .

18. **(Previously presented)** A powder comprising calcium tartrate particles having a mean particle size less than about 18 μm , wherein the powder is selected from the group consisting of cement, mortar, and concrete.

92 19. **(New)** The plaster composition of Claim 12, wherein said calcium tartrate particles having a mean particle size less than about 25 μm .

20. **(New)** The plaster composition of Claim 12, wherein said calcium tartrate particles having a mean particle size less than about 20 μm .

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21. (New) The plaster composition of Claim 12, wherein less than 5% of said particles have a particle size greater than about 40 μm .

22. (New) The plaster composition of Claim 21, wherein less than 1% of said particles have a particle size greater than about 40 μm .

23. (New) The plaster composition of Claim 21, wherein less than 01% of said particles have a particle size greater than about 40 μm .

24. (New) The powder of Claim 13, wherein said calcium tartrate particles having a mean particle size less than about 25 μm .

25. (New) The powder of Claim 13, wherein said calcium tartrate particles having a mean particle size less than about 20 μm .

92 26. (New) The powder of Claim 13, wherein less than 5% of said particles have a particle size greater than about 40 μm .

27. (New) The powder of Claim 26, wherein less than 1% of said particles have a particle size greater than about 40 μm .

28. (New) The powder of Claim 26, wherein less than 0.1% of said particles have a particle size greater than about 40 μm .

29. (New) The plaster composition of Claim 17, wherein said calcium tartrate particles having a mean particle size less than about 15 μm .

30. (New) The powder of Claim 18, wherein said calcium tartrate particles having a mean particle size less than about 15 μm .